

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
JUL 17 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments.

Claims 8 and 9 were objected to as being improperly dependent for making reference to both claims 7 and claim 1. In response, Applicants have deleted the reference to claim 1.

Editorial amendments have been made to other of the claims. New claims 16-19 are added, drawn to an implant method. Applicants do not believe that any of the amendments introduce new matter. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Alt et al. ("Alt"), US 6,767,360.

Claims 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Alt in view of Alt et al. ("Alt '121"), US 6,387,121.

Claims 1-4 were rejected 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Pacetti et al. ("Pacetti"), US 6,845,259, in view of Alt.

In response to all three obviousness rejections, Applicants continue to submit that Alt is not prior art. Applicants are still in the process of locating evidence in support of this position and such evidence will be submitted as soon as possible.

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding

USSN 10/705,566

Page 6

Response to Office Action dated January 17, 2007

objections and rejections.

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
NORRIS MCCLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By 

Kurt G. Briscoe
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 33,141
875 Third Avenue - 18th Floor
New York, New York 10022
Phone: (212) 808-0700
Fax: (212) 808-0844